

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 243

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAHIGEN GE/ECJ2

UNCLAS CAIRO 2235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF FINAL IMPLEMENTATION OF SINAI

II

1. EGYPTIAN PRESS FEBRUARY 20 PROMINENTLY FEATURES ARTICLES
DETAILING FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS FROM NORTH SINAI AND
PASSES AREAS. AKHBAR, WITH MOST DETAILED COVERAGE BY MILITARY
EDITOR FARUQ SHAZLI, REPORTS IN BANNER HEADLINE STORY THAT
FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN SECTOR BETWEEN PORT
FUAD AND QANTARA TOOK PLACE MORNING FEBRUARY 19 AND EGYPTIAN
FLAG RAISED OVER AREA T NOON SAME DAY AFTER UN FORCES HANDED
OVER AUTHORITY. SHAZLI REPORTS THAT EGYPTIANS TO RETAIN
BALUZHA STRONG POINT AS MONUMENT TO EGYPTIAN VICTORIES IN
OCTOBER 1973 WAR.

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2. AKHBAR REPORT COMMENTS THAT ISRAELI FORCES CURRENTLY
WITHDRAWING FROM PASSES AREA AND THAT EGYPTIAN TROOPS

WILL MOVE INTO SECTOR ON FEBRUARY 21; EGYPTIAN FLAG WILL BE
RAISED IN AREA AT NOON ON FEBRUARY 22. AKHBAR REPORT
STATES THAT EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE PROVIDING EMERGENCY
RELIEF AID FOR 3,000 EGYPTIAN CITIZENS LIVING IN AREA.
ACCORDING TO AKHBAR, ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO INDUCE
LOCAL INHABITANTS TO TRANSFER TO ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORY
BUT THAT ISRAELI REQUEST WAS REFUSED, IMPLICATION BEGINS THAT
ISRAELIS THUS CUT OFF SUPPLIES. AKHBAR REPORT ALSO STATES
THAT EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS READY FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK ON
EGYPTIAN EARLY WARNING STATION AND WILL BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY
UPON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FEBRUARY 21. IN ADDITION REPORT STATES
THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED CONCERNING EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI
AIR CORRIDORS IN SINAI, FOR TRANSPORT AND RECONNAISSANCE,
ALTHOUGH NO INDICATION WAS MADE CONCERNING DATE OF AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: ALL ARTICLES GENERALLY MATTER-OF-FACT WITH PRIMARY
EMPHASIS MERELY ON FACT THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE REGAINED TERRITORY
PROMISED UNDER SINAI II. ONLY AKHBAR CARRIES BANNER-HEADLINE
TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE WHILE OTHER DAILIES CONTENT THEMSELVES
WITH LOW-KEY, ALTHOUGH FRONT-PAGE, TREATMENT OF FINAL ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL.

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